

The Truth is Love

For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (KJV) 



What Paul speaks of is something more than just teaching the doctrine, it is the doctrine applied with compassion for the sinner. We cannot separate one from the other. This was the sin of the Pharisees, that they would have the gall to condemn Christ for healing the sick on the Sabbath. The letter of the law without love and understanding. We must not compromise the gospel one bit, but at the same time we must share it with compassion for the unbeliever, not condemnation.

We must speak the truth, but always with love. Sometimes this is difficult to do. The 'love doctrine' that is so pervasive in the Laodicean church is tainted; not because love is unimportant, but because the truth is forsaken for it. Similarly we can taint the truth by not sharing it in love. The two must always be present and working together.

Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
John 6:60-66 (KJV) 

Jesus has no problem with people becoming offended by the truth for He is truth. He is called the rock of offense! (**1st Peter 2:8 KJV** ) The truth (Christ) offends those who would oppose it, who don't embrace it. The truth is love if we love the truth. Yes, we may wrongly wield the truth as a weapon, but that is obviously not done in love. The truth misapplied is still the truth. If forced to choose between truth and love, truth must always prevail.

And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling

them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude 1:22-23 (KJV) 

What Jude speaks of here is tailoring our 'pitch' to our audience. We cannot tailor the message but we can tailor the delivery. Some may think my messages are blunt. They are, because I have tailored them to awaken the sleeping church. These messages edify myself as much as anyone else. As we are constantly bombarded with filth and immorality in the media, I am of the belief that we need to constantly remind ourselves that we are in spiritual battle every single day. We need to indoctrinate ourselves in scripture to the point that it becomes part of us and who we are.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14 (KJV) 

The things that are coming to the earth will force all honest men to re-examine their reality. We need to be ready to share the truth with others from all different walks and backgrounds. The above verse tells us that our senses are exercised by use, that we develop our sense of discernment like a muscle. We must also now begin developing our skills at speaking to others about the Lord, so once the harvest is ready we are skilled in witnessing to those from many different life experiences. This is what Paul is speaking about.

